

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Page 8, line 10

Using the generalized scalar function, a column environment is simulated for the row, such as row 6, that is an argument for the generalized scalar function, via step 104. Simulating the column environment allows the row, such as row 6, that is an argument for the generalized scalar function to appear to the corresponding column function as a column. Stated differently, the generalized scalar function takes the row data for the row input to the generalized scalar function and rearranges the row data to be in a column format that the corresponding conventional column function can use. Also in step 104, the row that is an argument for the generalized scalar function is provided to the corresponding conventional column function in the column environment. In other words, the generalized scalar function may call the corresponding conventional column function and provide to the corresponding conventional column function the row data that has been rearranged in column format. Thus, the conventional column function receives data from each row 6, 7 and 8 as though each row 6, 7 and 8 is a column. The conventional column function performs its operations on the rows 6, 7 and 8 provided to the column function in the column environment to return outputs, via step 106. Thus, the conventional column function functions as it normally would in step 106. In the minimum examples described above, the resultant of step 106 would be the minimum of row 6 or the minimum of rows 6, 7 and 8. Thus, using the method 100, ~~the generalized scalar function in combination with the column function allow the operation of the column function to~~ can be performed for the indeterminate number of entries in one or more of the rows 6, 7 and 8. In the method 100, the generalized scalar function places data for the desired row(s) in a column format, thereby simulating a column. The conventional column function then operates on the

(simulated) column. This allows the column function to operate on a row having an  
indeterminate number of entries without rewriting the column function.